

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. An apparatus for intra-oral stimulation of the trigeminal nerve, said apparatus
2 comprising:

3 an energy source that imparts energy to a tooth to stimulate the trigeminal nerve; and
4 an attachment portion to secure said energy source in a mouth in proximity to the tooth.

1 2. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein:

2 said energy source comprises a transducer; and

3 said apparatus further comprises an oscillator coupled to said transducer to provide an
4 electrical signal to said transducer.

1 3. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said transducer comprises a wire coil.

1 4. The apparatus of Claim 2, said apparatus further including a timer that automatically
2 discontinues provision of said electrical signal to said transducer following a selected interval
3 of provision of said electrical signal.

1 5. The apparatus of Claim 1, said attachment portion comprising:

2 a first leg to which said energy source is attached;

3 a second leg; and

4 a bridge portion spanning a width of the tooth to link said first leg and said second leg.

1 6. The apparatus of Claim 5, wherein said bridge portion includes at least one wire to secure
2 the apparatus about a crown of the tooth.

1 7. The apparatus of Claim 5, wherein said bridge portion covers a crown of the tooth.

1 8. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said attachment portion is at least partially formed of
2 acrylic.

1 9. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said attachment portion removably secures said
2 electrical transducer in contact with enamel of the tooth.

1 10. A method of stimulating the trigeminal nerve, said method comprising:
2 within a mouth, removably securing an energy source in proximity to a tooth; and
3 imparting energy to enamel of the tooth to stimulate the trigeminal nerve utilizing the
4 energy source.

1 11. The method of Claim 10, wherein said energy source comprises a transducer, said
2 method further comprising coupling the transducer to an oscillator that provides an electrical
3 signal to the transducer.

1 12. The method of Claim 10, wherein said step of imparting energy to enamel of a tooth
2 comprises imparting electromagnetic energy to the enamel of the tooth.

1 13. The method of Claim 10, and further comprising thereafter automatically discontinuing
2 impartation of energy to said enamel after a selected interval.

1 14. The method of Claim 10, wherein said step of removably securing comprises removably
2 installing an appliance including said energy source on the tooth.

1 15. The method of Claim 14, wherein said step of removably installing the appliance on the
2 tooth comprises removably installing the appliance such that the energy source contacts enamel
3 of the tooth.

1 16. An apparatus for intra-oral stimulation of the trigeminal nerve, said apparatus
2 comprising:

3 an energy source that imparts energy to a tooth to stimulate the trigeminal nerve; and
4 an attachment portion to secure said energy source in a mouth in proximity to the tooth,
5 said attachment portion including a first leg to which said energy source is attached, a second
6 leg, and a bridge portion spanning a width of the tooth to link said first leg and said second leg.

1 17. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein:

2 said energy source is a transducer; and
3 said apparatus further comprises an oscillator coupled to said transducer to provide an
4 electrical signal to said transducer.

1 18. The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein said transducer comprises a wire coil.

1 19. The apparatus of Claim 16, said apparatus further including a timer that automatically
2 discontinues provision of said electrical signal to said transducer following a selected interval
3 of provision of said electrical signal.

1 20. An apparatus for intra-oral stimulation of the trigeminal nerve, said apparatus
2 comprising:

3 an energy source; and
1 a transducer, coupled to the energy source, that imparts energy supplied by the energy
2 source directly to intra-oral tissue to stimulate the trigeminal nerve.